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LB 227

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...I know we're not going to have time to come to a vote on this today, but I do...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...hope we get to that in the future.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: Mr. President and members of the body, I bring a little different perspective to this issue. I, too, am a health advocate and I believe in the premise of not smoking, but I wonder just how it's going to affect small towns? Would you yield to some questions?

SENATOR THOMPSON: Yes.

SENATOR McDONALD: In the case of a small town business where there's a habit of giving out food as a promotional gimmick after hours to entice workers to come to the bar, would that count against them as a...as a...would that count as a food revenue or a...would it be a giveaway or how would they handle that in the case of promotional food in a bar?

SENATOR THOMPSON: If they're defined as a bar currently, then they're a bar. I could check with the Department of Health and Human Services on that question and get back to you.

SENATOR McDONALD: I have a concern that in small towns where there's only one business, and that business does not have the capability to remodel or to manage as a separate section, would it be, in your mind, a possibility that people might go away, and the...the distraction of trying to hire help and prepare food and simply give up and just become bars?

SENATOR THOMPSON: They may already be considered a bar, under your definition, Senator McDonald. I...I will check on that. If they're giving away popcorn or, you know, pizza or something, then that doesn't make them a restaurant.